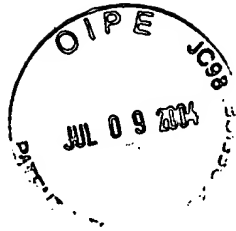


DOCKET NO: 202938US67



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
DAHONG QIAN, ET AL. : EXAMINER: PATEL, H.
SERIAL NO: 09/777,959 :
FILED: FEBRUARY 7, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2154
FOR: GROUP-BROWSING SYSTEM :

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2004

Technology Center 2100

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 10, 2004, applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group I, claims 1-11 and 14-22. That Restriction Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to distinct inventions. However, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the examiner.

U.S. Application Serial no. 09/777,959
Reply to Office Action dated June 10, 2004

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of claims 1-24 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

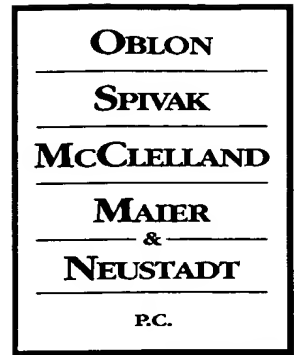
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Michael R. Casey, Ph.D.
Registration No. 40,294



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Docket No.: 202938US67

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/777,959
Applicants: Dahong QIAN, et al.
Filing Date: February 7, 2001
For: GROUP-BROWSING SYSTEM
Group Art Unit: 2154
Examiner: PATEL, H.

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2004

Technology Center 2100

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Michael R. Casey, Ph.D.
Registration No. 40,294